

**Incidents Involving *Field Workers* Reported in California¹ Associated
With² Pesticide Residue Exposure Summarized by Crop and
Type of Illness
2008**

Crop	Systemic/ Respiratory ³		Topical ³		TOTAL
	Definite/ Probable	Possible	Definite/ Probable	Possible	
BERRIES					
Strawberries	47	10	1	0	58
GRAIN					
Corn	0	0	0	1	1
GRAPES					
Grapes	1	1	0	2	4
LEAFY/STEM VEGETABLE					
Lettuce	0	4	0	0	4
MULTIPLE					
Almonds, Uncultivated Agricultural Areas (Other or Unspecified)	0	0	0	1	1
NUT TREES					
Almonds	0	0	1	1	2
ORNAMENTAL					
Ornamental Plants (Other or Unspecified)	0	0	0	1	1
OTHER FRUIT					
Olives	0	0	0	1	1
SEEDS					
Seeds (Agricultural & Ornamental)	0	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	48	16	2	7	73

¹ **Source:** California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Pesticide Illness and Surveillance Program.

² **Associated With:** Includes cases classified as definitely, probably or possibly related to pesticide exposure

Definite : High degree of correlation between pattern of exposure and resulting symptomatology.
Requires both medical evidence (such as measured cholinesterase inhibition, positive allergy tests, characteristic signs observed by medical professional) and physical evidence of exposure (environmental and/or biological samples, exposure history) to support the conclusions.

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Probable : Relatively high degree of correlation exists between the pattern of exposure and the resulting symptomatology. Either medical or physical evidence is inconclusive or unavailable.

Possible : Health effects correspond generally to the reported exposure, but evidence is not available to support a relationship.

³ **Type of Illness:** Categorization of the type of symptoms experienced.

Systemic : Any health effects not limited to the respiratory or skin and/or eye. Cases involving multiple illness symptom types including systemic symptoms are included in the systemic category.

Respiratory : Health effects involving any part of the respiratory tree.

Topical : Health effects involving only the eyes and/or skin. This excludes outward physical signs (miosis and lacrimation) related to effects on internal bodily systems. These signs are classified under 'Systemic.'

Whom to Contact:

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About the Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program Data

Pesticide-related illnesses have been tracked within the state of California for more than 50 years. The California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) maintains a surveillance program which records human health effects of pesticide exposure. The Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP) documents information on adverse effects from pesticide products, whether elicited by the active ingredients, inert ingredients, impurities, or breakdown products. This program maintains a database, which is utilized for evaluating the circumstances of pesticide exposures resulting in illness. This database is consulted regularly by staff who evaluate(s) the effectiveness of the DPR pesticide safety programs and recommend changes when appropriate.